

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington in time for votes on June 17, 2008 due to a personal matter in my hometown of Houston, TX. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

"Yea" on rollcall vote 414 on H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act;

"Yea" on rollcall vote 415 on H.R. 3702, the Montana Cemetery Act;

"Yea" on rollcall vote 416 on H. Res. 1275, Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 416. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1275—Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author.

RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S
FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN
ELECTED OFFICIAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay special tribute to John Mercer Langston, America's first African-American Congressman from Virginia, a prominent abolitionist, and founder of Howard University's law school.

While the world is watching America's historic presidential election, with Barack Obama as the first African-American Democratic nominee, it is necessary to recognize the trailblazers that have come before him and the barriers that they have brought down.

John Mercer Langston was born in a small county, Louisa, Virginia, in 1829 to a wealthy white plantation owner and an emancipated slave of Indian and Black ancestry. During slavery Langston was able to overcome several racial obstacles. He moved to Ohio when he was young where he attended Oberlin College and obtained a bachelor's and master's degree. He tried to pursue a law degree but racism stopped him from taking the usual route of getting a law degree. He was admitted to Ohio's bar after studying law under attorney and Representative Philemon Bliss. Similar to Obama, Langston was a strong leader and organizer. Langston organize anti-slavery societies at a local and state level. He recruited African-American men to fight in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was a law scholar, a dean and founder of Howard

University's Law School. He was elected in 1888 and served as a shining example to those that came after him.

Barack Obama's historic achievement would not have been possible if it was not for people like John Mercer Langston who triumphed over racial hurdles. It is important to acknowledge that it has taken about 180 years to finally see an African-American so close to the Presidency. This is all possible because of the collective bravery and sacrifices of so many before him, and especially the catalyst of John Mercer Langston's, from Louisa County, great accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on June 17, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 2964, H.R. 3702, and H. Res. 1275, and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 414 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 415 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3702, the Montana Cemetery Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 416 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1275, Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF SAMUEL L. EVANS OF PHILA-
DELPHIA, PA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of an important Philadelphian who will long be remembered.

When one looks up the definition of a leader they will find these words, 'someone who guides or directs others.' Alongside that designation should be a photo of one of Philadelphia's most revered citizens, Samuel L. Evans.

Evans was an imposing figure standing tall among the politically powerful even as he reached out to those in need. He was both influential and inspirational, an activist and advocate. Evans was a warrior in the civil rights movement, and a mentor for countless aspiring politicians, educators and entrepreneurs.

Sam Evans was a complex man, one who never compromised when it came to his principles, a trait admired by some and criticized by others. Evans' unwavering dedication to the success of African American boys and girls in Philadelphia brought him legions of admirers among those he assisted. They are among the most prosperous and socially active citizens serving in leadership positions throughout the city and the nation.

A man of courage, strength and dignity, Sam Evans will be remembered for his tenacious spirit and admired for his unyielding loyalty.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF ST. MARCELLINUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE CITY
OF COMMERCE IN THE 34TH DIS-
TRICT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the founding of the only Catholic church in the City of Commerce in the 34th Congressional District.

On August 10, 1958, the church's founding stone was placed on the spot that would become St. Marcellinus Church at 2349 Strong Avenue. Eight months later, the church's official open house took place on the feast of St. Marcellinus, the church's patron, on April 26, 1959.

Today, more than 600 people are registered parishioners of the church, and hundreds more attend mass on a regular basis. The church's services—held in both English and Spanish—continue to draw generations of Commerce families together in this industrial community of about 13,500 residents.

Parish Life Director Humberto Ramos was appointed to lead the congregation in August following the retirement of Father Jules Mayer after more than 21 years of service. Minister Ramos said the church serves many purposes in the community that extends well beyond religion. "Everybody knows each other in this community. This is their church. People need to have a sense of belonging."

To celebrate the church's important milestone, Cardinal Roger Mahoney will preside over its Golden Jubilee Mass on June 22 and recognize some of the church's founding members.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me along with Cardinal Mahoney and the parishioners of St. Marcellinus Church in celebrating the parish's 50 wonderful years of service to its members and the community.

I would also like to submit for the RECORD excerpts from a June 29, 2007 article that appeared in *The Tidings*, the weekly newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, that provides a detailed overview of the creation of St. Marcellinus Church. As the article points out, the church's founders are especially to be commended for their commitment and fortitude in creating this place of worship that today stands as the spiritual centerpiece of the Commerce community.

ST. MARCELLINUS CHURCH: A HISTORY

(By Hermine Lees, *The Tidings*)

"... Before 1957, the idea of a local Catholic church serving this industry-heavy community southeast of downtown L.A. was only a dream for its residents, and fulfilled only after some 14 years of praying and planning. By then, residents of the communities of Bandini and Rosewood Park were hemmed in by the creation of the Santa Ana Freeway, rail yards and industry that separated them from St. Alphonsus Church.